



Editorial

A new bridge between the nutrition and food sciences

When presenting the idea for *NFS Journal*, the official peer-reviewed scientific journal of the *Society of Nutrition and Food Science* (see Textbox), to colleagues, we are often asked: 'Do we need yet another nutrition and food science journal?' And our answer, for which there are a number of good reasons, is a clear: 'Yes!'

First of all, major progress in science requires an interdisciplinary approach and the cooperation of scientists with complementary skills. Linking the expertise from the Nutrition and Food Sciences, which have a large number of contact points even though they may approach the same topic from different angles, offers exciting opportunities for synergies. Yet, even though researchers from both disciplines study the same phenomena, they present their findings at different conferences and in 'their' nutrition or food science journals, because there is no publication platform at the interface of both disciplines. *NFS Journal* aims to fill this gap and acts as a bridge between the disciplines of Nutrition and Food Sciences.

NFS Journal therefore cordially invites you to submit your innovative findings in Nutrition and Food Science to this new and ambitious journal and to take this opportunity to shape the journal and make it a home for your research. We particularly welcome studies that link both disciplines with each other or in which authors from either discipline report data that is also of importance for the other respective discipline.

A further motivation for this new journal is that researchers in all fields, including Nutrition and Food Science, are currently facing the problem that testing a novel hypothesis with a sound and valid scientific methodology is often not enough for the publication of their data in established journals, since reviewers and editors tend to favour publications presenting positive results. This creates publication bias for papers that report presumably exciting effects, while 'negative results' may never be shared with the scientific community.

Furthermore, reviewers of manuscripts frequently identify mistakes, sometimes small ones, in the study design or experimental methodology that limit the validity of the data. At a time when the experiments have been performed, the data has been analysed and the manuscript has been written and submitted, the authors can do little to rectify their earlier mistakes and to rescue their valuable data.

NFS Journal seeks to solve these problems by offering a new article type called *Registered Reports*, which has been pioneered by the journal *Cortex* and is currently adopted by a number of journals from diverse scientific disciplines.

The *Society of Nutrition and Food Science*, in short *SNFS*, is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to bringing together all persons who share an interest in nutrition and food sciences, including academic and corporate scientists and leaders, politicians and authority employees, as well as interested laypersons, and to advance scientific progress and education in the nutrition and food sciences. These aims are achieved by the hosting of international congresses, work shops, seminars and symposia, and publication of an international peer-reviewed scientific open-access journal — *NFS Journal*. *SNFS* members benefit from reduced fees for publication in *NFS Journal* and registration for the society's events. Visit www.snfs.org for further details.



**SOCIETY OF NUTRITION
AND FOOD SCIENCE**

What are Registered Reports?

Registered Reports allow researchers to submit their innovative hypotheses and the experimental procedures for testing them to *NFS Journal* and have them evaluated by members of the editorial board and outside expert reviewers before they begin their laboratory work. This creates the opportunity to receive feedback from peers, optimise experiments, and correct mistakes, which enhances the quality of the experiments and reproducibility of the data.

If the pre-registered hypotheses and procedures adhere to the highest scientific standards and are positively evaluated by the peers, and the registered protocols are followed, the journal commits to the publication of the *Registered Report* at this early stage irrespective of the outcome of the study, thus eliminating publication bias, cherry picking and post hoc altering of hypotheses. *NFS Journal* is the first and presently only scientific journal in the Nutrition and Food Sciences that offers *Registered Reports*.

In addition to *Registered Reports*, *NFS Journal* also publishes all standard article formats, such as full-length research articles, comprehensive and mini-review articles, hypothesis papers, methods articles and letters to the editor.

The length of time between submission and final publication is important to researchers, who wish to share their exciting new findings with their colleagues in a timely manner. At *NFS Journal*, we are well aware of this and, in a coordinated effort together with our publisher Elsevier, we seek to optimise the editorial processes in order to allow rapid publication of your paper while maintaining the high quality of the peer-review process.

We hope that many of our colleagues share our enthusiasm for this new interdisciplinary journal and its novel approach to scientific publishing. We are convinced that the Nutrition and Food Sciences can benefit greatly from embracing the concept of *Registered Reports* and the opportunity it brings for improving data quality and unbiased presentation of all available scientific evidence. We thus warmly invite you to submit your planned experiments and new research results to *NFS Journal*, which, as an open access publication, will make your research globally visible and freely accessible without restrictions to all interested scientists.

We look forward to receiving your cutting-edge research and publishing your innovative results in *NFS Journal*.

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Professor Jan Frank, PhD

Professor Frank graduated with a Diploma in Nutrition from Bonn University (2000), obtained a PhD in Food Science at the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences (2004), and received postdoctoral training at the Universities of Kiel and Hohenheim. He was a visiting scientist at the Linus Pauling Institute (USA), the University of Reading (UK) and the University of Surrey (UK). Dr Frank was appointed Professor of Human Metabolomics at the Institute of Nutritional and Food Sciences at the University of Bonn in 2012 and, in 2013, Full Professor and head of the division Biofunctionality and Safety of Food at the Institute of Biological Chemistry and Nutrition at the University of Hohenheim. He is president of the Society of Nutrition and Food Science, and editor-in-chief of *NFS Journal*, regional co-editor of *Nutrition*, and member of the editorial boards of *The Journal of Nutritional Biochemistry*, *BioFactors*, and *Plant Foods for Human Nutrition*.

His research interests lie in factors that determine the absorption, metabolism, and elimination of phytochemicals and the different vitamin E congeners and in developing novel strategies to overcome the low intrinsic oral bioavailability of phytochemicals, as well as in understanding the biological activities of potentially health-beneficial bioactives.

Professor Walter Vetter, PhD

Walter Vetter studied chemistry at the University of Stuttgart (Germany) and received his diploma in 1990. During his doctoral thesis at the University of Hohenheim (1990–1993), he spent one year at the Norwegian Institute of Air Research (NILU) in Norway. From 1993–2002 he was researcher and group leader at the Friedrich-Schiller-University of Jena (Germany), where he finished his habilitation in food chemistry in 1998. In 2002 he became a full professor of food chemistry at the University of Hohenheim. In 2008, he was appointed Honorary Professor at the University of Queensland (Australia). He is Vice President of the Society of Nutrition and Food Science and Deputy Editor-in-Chief of *NFS Journal*.

His research fields cover lipid analysis (by GC/MS), food authentication, determination of polyhalogenated compounds in food and environmental samples, stable isotope analysis, enantiomer separations and countercurrent chromatography. In these fields he has published more than 200 original papers in peer reviewed journals along with some book chapters and review articles.